

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 AID-05 PC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /064 W
----- 124680

R 130315Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4637

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 3813

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN, BD

SUBJ: INDO-BANGLADESH RELATIONS

REF: NEW DELHI 3646

1. IN AN INFORMAL CONVERSATION WITH THE DCM MARCH 10, FOREIGN SECRETARY KEWAL SINGH SAID THERE WAS A NEED FOR IMPROVED COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN INDIA AND BANGLADESH AND THAT IT WAS UNFORTUNATE THAT THE DIALOGUE WAS NOW BEING CARRIED OUT IN THE PRESS. SINGH SAID THAT THERE WOULD BE A TECHNICAL LEVEL MEETING TO DISCUSS THE FARAKKA ISSUE. THERE SHOULD ALSO BE ANOTHER TOP LEVEL MEETING ON THE ORDER OF THE SATTAR MISSION WHICH CAME TO DELHI IN DECEMBER. THE SECRETARY IMPLIED THAT SUCH TALKS WOULD TAKE PLACE IN DACCA.

2. IN A CONVERSATION WITH AN EMBOFF MARCH 11, THE CHARGE OF THE BANGLADESH HIGH COMMISSION MOHIUDDIN AHMED WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY PLANS FOR ANOTHER TOP LEVEL ROUND OF TALKS. NEITHER DID HE KNOW OF ANY PLANS FOR TALKS ON FARAKKA IN THE NEAR FUTURE. AHMED SAID THAT WHILE THE TONE OF FOREIGN
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MINISTER CHAVAN'S REMARKS ON FARAKKA WAS CONCILIATORY

(REFTEL), A CAREFUL READING INDICATED THAT INDIA'S POSITION ON THE CRITICAL QUESTIONS OF THE DEFINITION OF THE LEAN PERIOD AND WHETHER THE GOI HAS AN OBLIGATION TO SEEK THE BDG'S AGREEMENT ON THE USE OF THE WATER DURING THE NON-LEAN PERIOD REMAINED RIGID. HE WAS NOT HOPEFUL THAT TALKS ON FARAKKA WOULD BE USEFUL SO LONG AS THE GOI REFUSED TO COMPROMISE ON THOSE POINTS.

3. COMMENT: IT IS POSSIBLE THAT PLANS TO HAVE TALKS ON FARAKKA OR ANOTHER TOP LEVEL EXCHANGE ARE BEING CLOSELY HELD AT THIS TIME AND AHMED SIMPLY IS UNINFORMED. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT KEWAL SINGH WAS GIVING US SOME ADVANCE INFORMATION ABOUT A NEW GOI DESIRE TO CLEAR THE ATMOSPHERE OF GOI-BDG RELATIONS.
SCHNEIDER

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Message Attributes

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